

protruding male terminal, the protruding female terminal having a fork shaped portion with a tip end and a base end;

an acute angle portion on the tip end, the acute angle portion configured to burst through a coating body of a harness;

a conducting wire connecting portion on the base end, the conducting wire connecting portion configured to grip a conductive wire; and

a terminal receptor between the tip end and the base end, the terminal receptor configured to receive the protruding male terminal.

#### REMARKS

In the Office Action of November 7, 2001, the Examiner objected to claims 1-4 for alleged informalities in claim 1. Although Applicants disagree with Examiner's objection, Applicants have cancelled claim 1, amended claim 2, and added claim 5 to improve clarity and not for any reason related to patentability. Applicants assert that the subject matter in new claim 5 correlates to claim 1 and is at least as broad as the subject matter contained in claim 1. The cancellation of claim 1 renders the objections moot.

Reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilson (U.S. Patent No. 4,533,200). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject in claim 3. However, Applicants have not rewritten this claim to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims because at least independent claim 5 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

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Independent claim 5 recites, among other things "a first connecting body with a protruding male terminal" and "a second connecting body fitted to the first connecting body, the second connecting body having a protruding female terminal..."

Wilson discloses a hermaphroditic electrical contact 24 that can connect to a conductor cable 12, be inserted into a printed circuit board 14, is capable of receiving in electrical connection a further electrical contact, and be press fit into a connector 10. (col. 1, lines 54-59; col. 3, lines 7-17). A connector 10 houses a plurality these contacts 24, and a plurality of these connectors 10 can be vertically stacked with the tail portion 32 of one contact being inserted into the socket portion 38 of another contact. (col. 1, lines 62-65; col. 2, lines 26-29; col. 3, lines 43-47). If the Examiner asserts that the connectors 10 correspond to the connecting bodies of claim 5, then Wilson cannot anticipate claim 5 because Wilson only teaches that the connectors are **stacked**, and not **fitted** as recited in claim 5. Fig. 7 of Wilson shows that it is only the contacts, and not the connectors, that are fitted together. Furthermore, the connectors in Wilson lack a protruding female terminal as recited in claim 5. Figs. 2 and 7 show that while the tail portion 32 may protrude from the connector 10, the entire socket portion 38 is positioned at or below the surface of the connector and thus does not protrude.

For at least the above reasons, independent claim 5 and its respective dependent claims 2-4 are patentably distinguishable from Wilson.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 3, 2003

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APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT OF JANUARY 3, 2003  
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

2. (Amended) A wire connecting connector according to claim 5 [Claim 1], further comprising [wherein] a disengagement prevention means for holding together [a fitted state between] the first connecting body and the second connecting body [is provided between the first connecting body and the second connecting body].

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